

## MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

pilots and other aviation officials. As a result the bird species supposed to have been involved in bird strikes were mostly restricted to very common birds and that too subject often to vague generalizations such as when names of 'eagles', 'vultures' and 'kites' were freely interchanged.

*Correct identification* of the bird species involved in a bird-strike incidents is essential for bird hazard prevention programmes using ecological methods. The most authentic way to recognise the bird species involved is to have the bird remnants positively identified by experts. Yet the extent of reporting of bird-

strike incidents *along with bird remnants*, by civil aviation personnel in India, has been extremely unsatisfactory. The Indian Air Force, on the contrary is very keen to co-operate with us in our bird-hazard prevention programme. In fact over 90% of the bird-strike remnants we have received so far have been sent to us by the IAF.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The study was undertaken as a part of the Project Ecological study of Bird hazards at Indian Aerodromes, funded by ARDB Ministry of Defence, Government of India.

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February 21, 1986.

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## 10. GREAT CRESTED GREBE SIGHTING

Nagpur, city of oranges situated in the eastern tip of Maharashtra is surrounded by some of the most beautiful forests of our state. Outside Nagpur one of the lakes feeding the water supply to the city is the Ambhajhari lake. This lake is the residence of atleast two

to three thousand Ducks and other waterfowl such as Coots, Teals, Pochards in winter. On Friday 13th December 1985 myself and fellow bird watchers Shri J. B. Kewate and Shri A. B. Gandhe saw two pairs of the Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*). They were also

sighted two days earlier. Their white facial and neck parts with prominent black top were carefully observed through binoculars by all three of us. They repeatedly dived for food. I believe this species is rare in our area and

hence we would like to record its occurrence.

The same day and time we also observed a single Pied Harrier which was with us till almost 5.45 p.m.

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11. ON THE CAPTURE OF WILSON'S STORM PETREL *OCEANITES*  
*OCEANICUS OCEANICUS* (KHUL) FROM THE SOUTH  
EAST COAST OF INDIA

During the fifth cruise on board FORV *Sagar Sampada* from Madras to Cochin in July, 1985 I caught two Wilson's Storm Petrels when they landed on the deck at dusk, probably attracted to the ship by the deck lights. When caught they did not make any attempt to escape due to failing light. They were active and pecked when the hand was taken near them.

The birds were of bulbul size with long slender legs with distinct yellow webbed toes. Colour of the birds was sooty black with a conspicuous white patch above the tail and pale wing bar. The beak was somewhat sharp with a small fleshy projection over it at the base.

According to Salim Ali and Ripley (1981)

it is one of the most numerous bird species in the world. It breeds in Antarctic and Subantarctic Islands wandering north in the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans in summer, to Europe, Arabia, India, New Guinea, Japan, California etc. Not uncommon along the coast of the Persian Gulf, Makaran and Sind. It is also recorded from the Konkan coast and also from Bombay. Curiously enough it is not recorded from the northern parts of Bay of Bengal. It is now recorded from the South East Coast of India. They must have come from the Sri Lankan coast for they are known to visit Sri Lanka chiefly during the monsoon season.

I am most grateful to Dr. Salim Ali for kindly identifying the bird.

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December 28, 1985.

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